

REPUBLIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2020

The Republic County Commission met in regular session on Monday, June 8, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse. Commissioners present were Melvin Jeardoe and Edwin Splichal. Commissioner Marvin Bergstrom was absent. Clerk Kathleen Marsicek was present to record the minutes. Quinten Bergstrom observed the meeting.

The meeting was called to order and attendees pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Pastor Rick Snodgrass, Crossroads Assembly of God Church of Belleville, offered Morning Prayer.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to approve the June 1, 2020 minutes. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Accounts payable vouchers in the amount of \$238,308.22 were approved.

Danielle Swanson, Justin Ferrell and Raymond Raney, presented their weekly update regarding COVID-19 information in Republic County. Swanson stated that there has been no new cases and that Republic County is continuing with Phase 3 through this week. Starting June 15, all restrictions will be removed however, the travel restrictions from KDHE will remain in force until Governor Laura Kelly rescinds them.

Swanson announced that all employees of the health department have returned from the temporary location and as of June 15th, the office is accepting routine appointments.

Swanson also stated that the roof repair has begun. Swanson asked permission to research the installation of a carport in the parking lot to allow COVID testing without persons entering the building. The carport could also be used for car-seat installation trainings. Permission was granted.

Commissioner Jeardoe asked Swanson what the process is for retaining the sign-in sheets from the courthouse during the COVID shutdown and going forward. Swanson instructed that all sign-in sheets are only for reference if any positive case of COVID would be reported. All sheets should be retained for 30 days and if no positive cases arise then they should be destroyed.

Sheriff Ron Blad understands that District Court is using "TEAM" to hold court. However, when asked why he is hiring two security guards, he reported that he has instructions from Judge Kim Cudney that any time an employee of District Court is in the office there should be a security guard on duty.

Commissioner Jeardoe requested that the classified ad for the Road and Bridge Administrator run until the end of June in the Belleville Telescope, Courtland Journal and Concordia Blade.

The Honorable Mayor of Courtland, Neely Kohmetscher, informed the commissioners of activities and projects in the Courtland community.

- The pool will open on Wednesday, June 10.
- Courtland is applying for a grant to assist with the sewer lift station.
- Summer youth ball has started.
- The Courtland Fun day Committee is planning activities for late July.
- Plans to have a citywide clean-up is underway.
- The city is planning to demolish a building and requested permission to deliver the debris to the landfill. Permission was granted.

Kohmetscher asked the status of the county delinquent tax sale. Commissioner Jeardoe replied that the tax sale is progressing and planned for this fall.

Nathan Craig and Stacy Bowen, Road and Bridge department, presented updates from the county shop departments:

- The installation of the culvert on Elm Road between 210 Rd and 220 Rd is complete.
- The regrade on Fir Rd between US Hwy 81 and 220 Rd is almost complete.
- Craig is pricing a train car to be used as a culvert for the bridge south of Scandia on 90 Rd.
- The recycling trailers are filling up fast and they are scheduling pickup as quickly as they can.
- Craig announced that Tom Thompson's retirement party will be Thursday, June 11th at noon with a BBQ.
- A road crew will be grading and applying gravel to Diamond Rd this week between 130 Rd and 150 Rd, weather permitting.
- Classified Ads for full-time operators and seasonal part-time operators have been published.

At 10:15 a.m., Commissioner Splichal made a motion to recess to an executive session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel performance. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried. Attending the session were the commissioners, Craig, Bowen and Clerk Marsicek.

The board reconvened at 10:25 a.m., taking no action.

- Craig requested permission to recruit bridge crew as well as equipment operators when selecting new employees. Permission was granted to screen employees that could cover both duties.

- Bowen said the transportation buses have been busy since the buses are active. The number of passengers has increased to 4 person a trip this week and next week it will increase to regular capacity.

Robbin Cole, Director of Pawnee Mental Health, presented the annual report and request for funding from Republic County for 2021. Pawnee has frozen the amount of request to the same as the 2020 request of \$35,154. The commission will take that under advisement when preparing the budget. Pawnee had to close its buildings during the COVID-19 Pandemic, except for emergency services. Other services were offered through phone calls, Zoom, Facetime and Skype therapy. During 2019, 137 Republic County residents received services through Pawnee Mental Health, including the mental Health screenings, new Crisis Observation Services and the Crisis Stabilization Services.

At 11:45 a.m., Commissioners and Clerk Marsicek moved the meeting to the health department to review placement of a drive through carport.

Commissioner Splichal made a motion to adjourn at 12:20 p.m. Commissioner Jeardoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, June 15, 2020, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse.

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen L. Marsicek – County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Melvin Jeardoe – Chair

Edwin Splichal– Member

Marvin Bergstrom – Member